

THE TABERNACLE

EXPERIENCE HIS PRESENCE

The Tabernacle – Week 1 Exodus 25:8-22 – November 12, 2023

Check out one of these helpful resources:

- 1) Experience The Tabernacle – Brian Hardin <https://bit.ly/469Dz0v>
- 2) The Royal Priest (RightNow Media) – Tim Mackie <https://bit.ly/472DpcD>

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW (Build Relationships)

- Share a personal experience when you felt like you were in God's dwelling place or presence.
- What comes to mind when you think about approaching God? Why do you think that those images and thoughts come to mind?
- Discuss a time when you felt a connection between earthly experiences and heavenly realities in your spiritual journey.
- Share a favorite worship song or hymn that helps you experience God's presence. Why does it resonate with you?
- Reflect on the imagery of heaven coming to earth. How does this impact your view of the significance of your daily life and actions?



GROW: (Grow Spiritually)

- Read Exodus 25:8-22. Discuss the symbolism of the mercy seat sitting over the law. How does this relate to Romans 3:23-24?
- Reflect on the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16 and its connection to the handling of the Ark. How does this reflect God's holiness and our need for atonement? (Also consider Hebrews 9:22)
- Examine the symbolic elements of the Ark, including the mercy seat and the cherubim. How do these symbols contribute to the theological message of God's presence and grace? (Refer to Hebrews 9:5 and 1 Kings 8:6-9)
- Compare the instructions for the Ark in Exodus 25:8-22 with its later significance in the Israelites' journey. How does the Ark evolve in its role and symbolism throughout the Old Testament? (Consider passages like Numbers 10:33-36 and Joshua 3:3-4)
- Reflect on the theological implications of God wanting to dwell in the midst of His people. How does this foreshadow the concept of Immanuel, "God with us," in the New Testament? (Explore Matthew 1:23 and John 1:14)
- Explore the covenantal aspects within the Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat. How does God's covenant with His people play out in this passage, and how is it connected to broader biblical covenants? (Consider Genesis 17:7 and Jeremiah 31:31-34)
- Consider the emphasis on bowing down in perpetual worship to God. How is this concept echoed in Philippians 2:9-11?
- Connect Psalm 103 to this passage. How does God's compassion and forgiveness, mentioned in the psalm, align with the imagery in Exodus 25?
- Discuss the challenge of acting justly and loving mercy from Micah 6:8. How does this align with Jesus' teachings? (Matthew 23:23)



SHOW: (Live on Mission)

- In what practical ways can we create a "tabernacle" or space in our lives for regular, intentional encounters with God's presence?
- Reflect on the standards in handling the Ark and discuss how they reflect God's holiness. How can we maintain a posture of bowing down our hearts in worship of God?
- How can we, as a group, demonstrate justice and love mercy in our community, aligning with Micah 6:8?